

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peace Officers Memorial Service Slated for May 12 at Noon

Fourteenth Annual Service to Honor and Remember City-County Law Enforcement

Salisbury, NC_April 29, 2009 – The City of Salisbury announced today that the Rowan County Peace Officers Memorial Service will be held at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 12, at First Presbyterian Church, 308 W. Fisher Street, Salisbury. The annual tribute honors those who have given their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve in law enforcement. The public is cordially invited to attend the service which is held in conjunction with 2009 National Police Week, May 10-16.

Each year, the heart-felt commemoration unites the Salisbury Police Department and the Rowan County Sheriff's Department as together they pay homage to their fallen brothers and to their fellow comrades at arms. Prior to the beginning of the service, the Salisbury Police Explorers will perform the "Placing of the Wreath" and a musical prelude will be offered by Timothy D. Belflowers. The service will commence with the Rowan County Honor Guard performing the "Posting of Colors" at precisely 12 noon. A Salisbury Police Explorer will then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation will be given by Dr. Jim C. Dunkin, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, with Mayor Susan Kluttz providing the welcome to all in attendance. Speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council, the Mayor shares the following, "I would like to cordially invite the public to attend this memorial service as together we honor the memory of those so devoted to preserving justice through their protection of our freedom and their commitment to ensuring liberty and peace. To the parents, families and friends of these dedicated heroes, we embrace you with sincere compassion and with our heart-felt prayers. The memory of these brave men and women shall live on forever as we will remember them always in our hearts. In addition, we take this opportunity to thank all law enforcement personnel and their families for their service to us every day. It is truly with the greatest of honor, respect, and dignity that we recognize the many dedicated peace officers throughout our community."

Special music, *Heaven's Bright Shore*, will be shared by The Singing Deacons. The group includes Jeff McCorkle, Rowan County Sheriff's Department, and his daughter Madison. Salisbury Police Chaplain Tom Teichroew will offer the scripture lesson. A musical arrangement, *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* will be performed by Violinist Greg Pannell with accompaniment by Sgt. Lee Walker, both of the Salisbury Police. The "Altar Ritual/Final Inspection of the Wreath" will be conducted by Salisbury Deputy Chief Steve

Whitley, serving as Honor Guard Commander of the service. Recognition of state and local roll calls of honor and officers reverently remembered will follow.

The State of North Carolina Roll Call of Honor will commence as Chaplain Mike Taylor, Rowan County Sheriff's Department, remembers those deputies, troopers, and police officers who have fallen in the line of duty from May 2008-May 2009. Those recognized are as follows:

Deputy Sheriff Steve Boehm, 06-14-2008, Onslow County Sheriff's Dept.
Trooper David Shawn Blanton Jr., 06-17-2008, North Carolina Highway Patrol
Trooper Andrew Stocks, 09-09-2008, North Carolina Highway Patrol
Deputy Sheriff Adam William Klutz, 09-19-2008, Caldwell County Sheriff's Office
Police Officer Richard Matthews, 02-18-2009, Wilmington Police Department
Detective Allen Pearson, 04-07-2009, Lenoir County Sheriff's Department

Salisbury Police Department Chaplain Russell Williams will follow by recognizing and honoring the Rowan County Roll Call of Honor. Rowan County deputies, police officers, and a sheriff who have fallen in the line of duty prior to 2008 will be remembered. They are as follows:

Deputy Chief William J. Propst, 11-17-1922, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Chief Linzy J. Yarbrough, 06-03-1927, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff William Locke McKenzie, 07-16-1931, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Danny R. Griffin, 06-03-1986, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Rick Bauguess, 11-01-1988, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Officer Roger Dale Carter, 12-31-1993, Kannapolis Police Department
Deputy John Beck, 01-27-1994, Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Officer Robert Clement, 06-03-1999, Spencer Police Department
Deputy Rick Hillard, 10-17-1999, Rowan County Sheriff's Office

Chaplain Harvey Rice of the Salisbury Police Department will recognize and honor additional local law enforcement officers who are to be reverently remembered. Those distinguished are as follows:

Rick Davis	David M. Holyfield
Richard Eller	James L. Hurley
Perry Lee Fortson	Bob Martin
Rayford Graham	Anita Horton Rilling
Melvin Harvell	Daniel E. Sides
Bill Higgins	B.P. Tutterow
Lee Hill	C. Wayne Whitman

As is customary, the memorial wreath will include flowers which are placed in tribute to law enforcement personnel. A white rose is placed within the wreath to honor those who continue to serve and protect. Red roses are included in the floral arrangement to signify each Rowan County officer who has died in the line of duty and all North Carolina officers killed in the line of duty from May 2008-May 2009. The blue carnations represent all officers reverently remembered.

Chaplain Harold Bumby of the Salisbury Police Department will offer the final benediction with those in attendance dismissed to the courtyard fountain area; the colors and wreath will be retired to this area as well. The Salisbury Police Department Honor Guard will offer the traditional twenty-one gun Salisbury in honor of those remembered. The ceremony will conclude with a trumpeter's rendition of *Taps*.

Chief Mark Wilhelm of the Salisbury Police Department encourages community attendance and shares, "We encourage all citizens to attend this memorial service as we remember those who loyally gave their lives to ensure safety for others. The sacrifice of their families is supreme and I assure you that these brave men and women will never be forgotten. Each one courageously swore an oath to uphold the law and assumed the responsibility of protecting our neighborhoods and our community. They have rightfully earned a place in our hearts forever."

In support of National Police Week, numerous other local activities will transpire. Beginning on Monday, May 4, the "Unity Ride" will arrive in Salisbury, NC. Since 1997, police officers have ridden motorcycles to Washington, DC to commemorate the national week recognition and to honor their fellow fallen officers. Riders will pass through Salisbury briefly on their route to the nation's capital. A short prayer service will be held on the Rowan County Courthouse steps at approximately 2 pm that day. Citizens are cordially invited to attend. In addition, the NC Attorney General's Office will conduct their annual Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony in Kannapolis, NC. The Wednesday, May 6 ceremony will be held at 11 am at Charity Baptist Church, 2420 Brantley Road in Kannapolis. Representatives from North Carolina Law Enforcement Agencies will be in attendance and the public is welcome to attend.

For questions regarding local law enforcement services held in conjunction with National Police Week, please contact Officer Ann Cooper at 704-638-4463 or Lieutenant Karen Barbee at 704-216-7566. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City, its services, programs, or career opportunities, please visit us online at www.salisburync.gov.

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